



# MARAD Update



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## Cadets of Texas Maritime Academy's *Texas Clipper II* Rescue Man at Sea

Cadets and crew aboard the Training Ship *Texas Clipper II* received real-world experience on Sunday, July 10, when they rescued a man from a disabled 35-foot motor yacht.

In force-seven sea conditions due to Hurricane Dennis, with 13- to 16-foot seas and winds gusting over 30 knots, a weak "Mayday, Mayday" was heard on the VHF radio by Mate Wade Howell.



*The Texas Clipper II at night.*

Training Ship *Texas Clipper II* is the Texas Maritime Academy's 394-foot training vessel, and is owned by the Maritime Administration.

"The vessel in distress, the *Maineship Fugitive*, had been at sea for over eight days and had been adrift for the past three days," stated Capt. Sam Stephenson, master of the *Texas Clipper II*.

The *Maineship Fugitive* had departed Titusville, Florida, heading to Chub Cay in the Bahamas with one passenger aboard, James Lichlyter of Florida.

"The vessel had lost battery and electrical power, and did not have operational engines; therefore, Mr. Lichlyter did not know his position," noted Stephenson.

The crew on watch asked a series of questions to help locate the ill-fated boat, and Lichlyter was able to identify an unlit brown structure through the haze. Cadets identified the structure as the Great Isaac Lighthouse, an abandoned lighthouse in the Bahamas, approximately 11 nautical miles from the *Texas Clipper II*.

The cadets instructed Mr. Lichlyter to fire off flares, but they still could not locate the *Maineship Fugitive*'s position. Finally, Mr. Lichlyter saw a container ship on the horizon, and the crew was able to locate the yacht's position.

As the seas continued churning, the *Texas Clipper II* came alongside the *Maineship Fugitive* leaving it on the port side to create a lee (shelter from the wind). A line was secured to the bow of the *Maineship Fugitive*, and Lichlyter climbed the pilot ladder to the *Texas Clipper II* and safety.

"Other than severe sunburn, being very tired, and hungry, he appears to be in good health," stated Capt. Stephenson.

"Our crew and cadets are to be commended for a job well done," said Stephenson. They did an

outstanding job in making this rescue safe and successful, and everyone completed their duties with the utmost precision."

Texas A&M University at Galveston hosts the Texas Maritime Academy, one of six state academies in the United States and the only academy in the Gulf Coast.



*James Lichlyter (left) and Captain Sam Stephenson, Master of the Texas Clipper II, aboard the Texas Clipper II after Mr. Lichlyter's rescue at sea by the cadets of the Texas Clipper II.*